

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims are 1, 2 and 4-6. Claim 1 has been amended to improve its form and to incorporate the subject matter of claim 3. Accordingly, claim 3 has been canceled. In addition, claim 4 has been amended to improve its form. Reconsideration is expressly requested.

Claims 1-2 and 4-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Tjoa et al. U.S. Patent No. 3,767,766*, in view of *Heisel et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,628,977* for the reasons set forth on pages 2-6 of the Office Action. The Examiner also indicated, however, that claim 3 contains allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

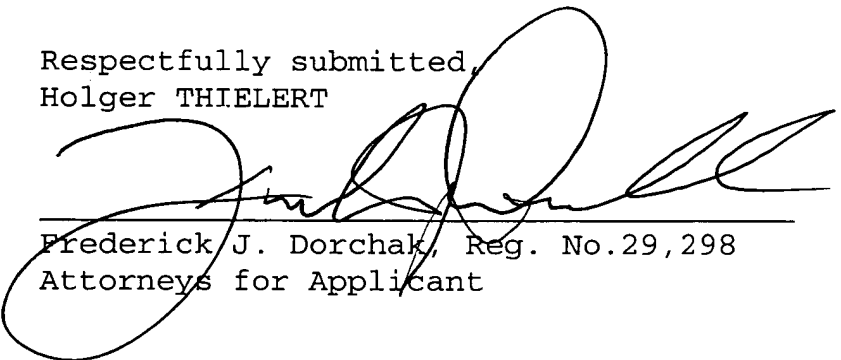
In response, without conceding the propriety of the rejection and in order to expedite prosecution of this case, Applicant has amended claim 1, *inter alia*, to incorporate the subject matter of claim 3 and has canceled claim 3. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 as amended, together

with claims 2 and 4-6, which depend thereon, are now in condition for allowance.

In summary, claims 1 and 4 have been amended, and claim 3 has been canceled. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,
Holger THIELERT

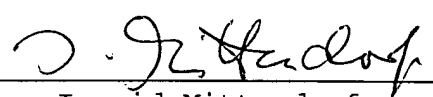
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Enclosure: Copy of Petition - 2 month extension of time

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